

# Australia Honors Its Defence Force



On October 21, in the lead up to Remembrance Day, Australia Post honored the contribution made by its defense forces over the last century with a new stamp issue.

Australia Post Managing Director and Group CEO, Ahmed Fahour, said this year commemorates the centenary of World War I and this stamp issue remembers the contribution made by the Australian Defence Force (ADF). "We hope that these stamps serve as a symbol of our appreciation to those who have served and continue to serve our nation," Mr. Fahour said.

Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, AC said, "We are honored that Australia Post is paying tribute to the men and women of the Australian Defence Force in this way. Whether they are in combat or on humanitarian operations, our military personnel are internationally renowned for their skill and widely respected for their professionalism. This stamp issue is an outstanding tribute to all those Australians who have served our nation," said Air Chief Marshal Binskin.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) comprises the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). The three services operated more or less independently until an integrated command structure was established with the forma-

tion of the Australian Defence Force on February 9, 1976.

The four domestic base rate (70c) stamps were designed by Tim Hancock of the Melbourne-based design studio XSD. The stamp designs are based on the caps and badges of the respective three services, with the fourth stamp depicting the Australian Defence Force Emblem.

Associated with the stamp issue is a special prestige cover. The "Remember Me To All" prestige cover includes a facsimile of a pocket book carried by Private John Hector Croft of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) during the landing at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915. Croft's life was saved when an enemy bullet lodged in the pocket book after penetrating his arm. Also included is a facsimile of a letter written by Croft describing the incident.

Other products associated with this stamp issue include a miniature sheet, first day cover, stamp pack, booklet of 10 x 70c self-adhesive stamps, set of four maxicards and four designed gutter strips of 10 x 70c stamps.

The Century of Service: The Australian Defence Force stamps and associated products are available at [www.auspost.com.au/stamps](http://www.auspost.com.au/stamps) or contact Australia Stamp Agency in North America toll free (USA and Canada) on 1-800-443-4225 while stocks last.